

Special Issue on Rating and Treatment of Chronic Pain in Children

CALL FOR PAPERS

Pediatric chronic pain affects an estimated 4 and 40% of children in Europe. Chronic pain can present with a large variety of symptoms, which can make its diagnosis very challenging. Several classification systems are used, the most common being based on the pathophysiological origin (nociceptive or neuropathic). Pediatric chronic pain's diagnosis is made even more challenging in infants and newborns, where its assessment is hindered by the lack of language or the ability of expression to report it. In this regard, different types of pain indicators based on physical and behavioral expressions have been studied and have shown a good grade of reliability, even though a standardized and generally recognized method of assessment is still missing. Chronic pain can lead to severe consequences on the quality of life of children and adolescents, strongly impacting their engagement and performance at school and in sports, as well as in social and family life. It can eventually lead to possible long-term effects on their psychophysical development, stability, and well-being, where the disease does not receive proper diagnosis or treatment. Therefore, effective treatment approaches must take all these factors in their entirety into consideration, combining physical, pharmacological, psychological, and nonpharmacological therapy.

There is still limited literature concerning pediatric chronic pain, and only a few drugs are currently approved. The lack of properly tested pediatric medications causes the need to resort to off-label drug prescriptions, thus exposing children to the risk of dosing errors and adverse reactions. In this regard, the WHO and the EMA have tried to encourage the scientific community as well as the industry to invest in clinical research on the safety and efficacy of pain-relieving medicines in children.

Our aim is to get insights into the current state of the art of the proposed topics, inviting clinicians to contribute original research and review articles, illustrating and discussing possible new and more targeted approaches to evaluation and treatment.

Potential topics include but are not limited to the following:

- ▶ Age-related pain assessment in developmental age
- ▶ Pharmacological treatments of children with chronic pain
- ▶ Nonpharmacological approaches of pediatric chronic pain
- ▶ Cognitive, emotional, and behavioral factors associated with pediatric chronic pain
- ▶ Impact of pediatric chronic pain on family life

Authors can submit their manuscripts through the Manuscript Tracking System at <https://mts.hindawi.com/submit/journals/prm/ccfr/>.

Papers are published upon acceptance, regardless of the Special Issue publication date.

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